

Some events in Willingale

1960's

In the mid-1960s the runways and other concreted areas of the old airfield at Willingale were broken up for use as hard core, much of which was used for the Brentwood bypass section of the A12

Father George Marsden became vicar of St Christopher's

In 1963 the School celebrated its centenary with a Church service and an afternoon of sports, fancy dress and general 'junketing'! There was a total of 41 pupils at that time.

Dukes Farm changed hands in 1964 and the 70 dogs and other creatures were evicted

The Over 60's Club was formed in July 1969 and met once a month in the Village Hall, if there wasn't an outing.

The village had a very active Women's Institute, which celebrated its 10th anniversary in 1965

1970s

In 1972 Father Marsden revived an old custom of 'banging boys heads on the ground' for Rogation Sunday!

In 1973 Jack Jarvis said that nothing had changed in the Village in 60 years!

What's on in Willingale had its first edition in 1975

Willingale celebrated the Silver Jubilee with an afternoon of children's activities followed by a street party in the evening. All the school children were given a money box and a mug. There was an exhibition of Bygone Willingale in St. Andrews church – nothing changes!

The biggest event in Willingale in the 1970's was the anti- airport campaign against the new London Airport being sited here

1980s

Father Marsden left the village in 1982

32 Americans from New Hampshire visited the village in 1982

Phase 1 of Manns Yard construction was started in 1984

The school was closed in 1984

The Old Stores closed in 1984

The Bell public house closed in 1988

In 1989 Willingale was awarded a certificate of merit for being judged the most improved village in our class in the Best Kept Village Competition!

1980s was a challenging decade in the village!

1990s

In 1992 a group of USAAF airmen who were stationed in Willingale during WW11 made a visit to the village.

Phase 2 of the building of Manns Yard began in 1992

In June 1994 a general meeting was held to discuss the possibility of the closure of the Village Hall

The Wiseman Memorial in St. Christophers church was dismantled for necessary conservation work to be carried out in 1994 at a cost of £20,000!

Windows on Willingale was inaugurated in 1995 and produced a book and a calendar

In 1999 once again the Village Hall was threatened with closure and a Public Meeting held to decide its future

Events in the 00's

Millennium celebrations

The Village sign was unveiled on Village Day – it was designed by Jacqui Galise and made by Alan Sweeting

Mugs with design of the village sign were given to all children under the age of 18 by the Parish Council

Map of the village produced by Windows on Willingale and created by Gill Jaggard

St. Christopher's tower was re-roofed in 2000

Montessori Nursery school opened in 2002

Village Hall received a grant from the Lottery Fund for refurbishments to be carried out and it was officially re-opened in September 2001

The Top House closed in 2001

Renovation of the church organ in 2002

Willingale Sports & Social Club started in June 2003

"Through Changing Scenes" concert in the church September 25th, 2004

Broadband arrived in the Village 2006

Events in 10's

St Andrews Chancel roof repaired 2010

Willingale Amateur dramatics group WAMDRAMS first performance 2011

St Christopher's bell project when volunteers rallied around and made a new timber frame and increased the bells from 4 to 6 in 2012

Inter-village Olympics 2012

Queen's jubilee concert on the sports field in pouring rain 2012

Village hall extension with new kitchen and enlarged Cleminson room 2015

Superfast Broadband comes to Willingale 2016